Labour unions of municipal workers.

* 105 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state the grounds on which the Government issued G.O. No. 1671 not recognizing the labour unions of municipal workers in this State if the office-bearers of such unions include outsiders?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The orders in G.O. No. 1671, L.A., dated the 8th September 1948, follow the orders applicable to State Government servants. The reason for prohibiting outsiders from being office-bearers of Service Associations is that these Associations are intended to serve the interests of persons in active service only and that persons who do not belong to this class have no place in the management of the Associations."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that these trade unions are registered under the Trade Unions Act and that Act permits outsiders to become office-bearers in the unions and in view of the fact that this Government Order prevents outsiders from holding any office in the labour unions of municipal workers, and prevents the settlement of so many disputes between workers and municipalities will the Governmment consider the desirability of cancelling this particular Government Order? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Government will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that during the strike by the Mettur Township Scavengers' Union this was the central point at issue and that that was responsible for the failure of the strike and that the Government are thus abetting failures of strikes? Will the Government consider the desirability of amending the Government Order? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think this question should be addressed to the Hon. Minister for Labour."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Railway Administration ను కూడ యిప్పుడు ప్రభుత్వం నడుపుతున్నది. అందులో Railway Workers' Unionల తరఫున President ను కార్యదర్శిని recognize చేసి వారికి అవకాశం యివ్వగా మునిసిపల్ workers' union కార్యదర్శి వగైరాలను recognize చేయడము యీ మదరాసు ప్రభుత్వం ఎందుకు నిరాకరిస్తున్నదని ప్రభుత్వం చెప్పుతారా? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The orders passed by the Government were intended to enforce better discipline in the associations of municipal workers and for their own benefit."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Railway service కంటె కూడా చాలా essential service ఎక్కువ ప్రధానమైనటువంటి సర్వీసుల ప్రెసిడెంట్లకు, కార్యదర్శులకు అవకాశము యివ్వగా, యీ మునిసిపల్

7th November 1952]

service workers తో ఎలాంటి in-discipline లేనప్పుడు, యీ municipal workers కు గూడా recognition యివ్వకుండా ఉండటానికి అవసరము ఎందుకు వచ్చిందో ప్రభుత్వంవారు చెప్పుతారా?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Government will certainly consider any representation connected with this matter."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that most of the municipal workers of the category of scavangers, cartmen and sweepers are illiterate and ignorant and they are not in a position to represent their grievances properly, will the Government exempt these workers from the Government Order mentioned by the Hon. the Minister?" 11-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I think I have answered enough, Sir. The associations comprise all categories of municipal employees."

SRI G. SIVASANKARA REDDI :—" Is it not necessary to include outsiders in such associations and enable them to represent their grievances boldly without any diffidence?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, it is a question of public servants' unions. An association of public servants is for the remedy of their grievances. It is absolutely inexpedient to allow outsiders to take part in them for very many reasons which I need not go into now and therefore I am very unwilling to consider any such suggestion. But if it is a suggestion to be considered it will be considered. I have said enough to show, so far as I am concerned, that I am against it."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Will the Hon. the Chief Minister give an assurance on the floor of the House (interruption by the Hon. Sri C. Rajagopalachari) or make a statement that the employees who are office-bearers of unions will not be punished during their tenure of office and afterwards for two or three months, so that the office-bearers may feel a sense of security in discharging their duties as labour union officers?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, I give the assurance here and now that on account of any action taken by employees who are office-bearers of associations, in regard to the remedying of their grievances, no victimization will take place, as stated by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, during the period mentioned. But if any act of indiscipline is done outside the seeking of remedy of grievances, it should not be thought that it is covered by this assurance."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" In view of the fact that the Central Government representative at the I.L.O. made an objection only in the case of military personnel and Government servants and not in the case of employees of local bodies, will the Government reconsider and revise the Government Order?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I think that that representative was guilty of neglecting this matter."